

REMARKS

By this Amendment, an Abstract is submitted on a separate sheet of paper (attached) and the claims have been amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter. Claims 1-18 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 11 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 based on Nagashima (US 6,463,050). Claims 3-7, 9, 12-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on the combined teachings of Nagashima and Schieder (US 6,469,922).

Applicant submits the attached Certified English Translation of the Priority Document, Finland Application 981372 filed June 12, 1998 to perfect Applicant's priority to that filing date. Therefore, by this submission Nagashima and Schieder are eliminated as potential prior art to support a prior art rejection because those references have effective dates after June 12, 1998. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. However, if the Office believes that any further actions are necessary to place the application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative, to discuss such actions.

Respectfully submitted,

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: 

Christine H. McCarthy

Reg. No.: 41844

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2143

Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

CHMneed
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000